

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The following is submitted in response to the Office Action issued on January 9, 2004 (Paper No. 18) in connection with the above-identified patent application, and is being filed within the first month after the one-month shortened statutory period set for a response by the Office Action. A request for a one-month extension time is noted on the attached transmittal and the extension fee is enclosed.

Claims 1-14, 17-43, 46-67, 70-95, 98-117, 120-135, and 138-142 are pending in the present application, and are subject to a restriction / election requirement.

In particular, the Examiner has imposed a restriction / election requirement under 35 USC § 121 from among eight identified species. According to the Examiner Specie A comprises the subject matter shown in Fig. 1, Specie A1 comprises the subject matter shown in Figs. 1 and 2, Specie A2 comprises the subject matter shown in Figs. 1 and 3, Specie A3 comprises the subject matter shown in Figs. 1 and 4, Specie A31 comprises the subject matter shown in Figs. 4, 5A, and 5B, Specie A32 comprises the subject matter shown in Figs. 4 and 6, Specie A33 comprises the subject matter shown in Figs. 4 and 7, Specie A34 comprises the subject matter shown in Figs. 4 and 9, and Specie A35 comprises the subject matter shown in Figs. 4 and 10.

Preliminarily, Applicants express some puzzlement at the restriction / election requirement inasmuch as all of the claims of the present application are believed to be directed toward the overall architecture of a digital rights management (DRM) system, including a content server issuing content, a license server issuing a license corresponding to the content, and a computing device receiving the license and content and rendering the content in accordance with the license, all as shown in Fig. 1.. That said, Applicants hereby

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elect Specie A1 comprising the subject matter shown in Fig. 1 for further prosecution in connection with the present application, and assert that all of claims 1-14, 17-43, 46-67, 70-95, 98-117, 120-135, and 138-142 read on such elected specie A1.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully request continued examination of the present application and a Notice of Allowance in due course.

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